

Equipment Review

The Elmer M1 Putter

By *Louis Naude*,
Assistant Editor

South Africa has always had a profound effect on world golf. We continually produce a string of players who compete with the world's best. However, the same cannot always be said about our golf equipment capabilities - until now!

I recently had the opportunity to experience first hand the Elmer M1 Putter. This putter is designed, patented and assembled in KZN! It holds two International patents and has rules approval confirmation from both the USGA and R&A.

First, let's look at what you get in the box:

The Elmer M1 putter fitted with a CNC-milled polymer insert face, a pair of aluminium rails and a waterproof neoprene head cover.

Additionally, a neoprene accessory wallet containing:

- 1 CNC-milled (non-insert) face;
- 1 pair brass rails;
- 1 ball end adjustment tool;
- Detailed instructions

All the metal parts are CNC machined out of solid brass and aluminium to minimum tolerances and are of the highest quality.



So, what makes this putter so special! I will try to list all the features and capabilities - forgive me if I miss something!

"It can be adjusted to your perfect lie angle - keeping the face flat and square.

"The M1 Putter features perfect face balanced weighting.

"The shaft is connected and centred directly behind the impact area for the most solid stroke possible.

"Choose between the CNC-milled polymer insert or CNC-milled non-insert faces which are both supplied as standard.

"The overall heel/toe bias weighting can be easily changed using either the brass or aluminium rails supplied as standard. Once adjusted, the weighted rails and the Sliding Body System ensure the M1 Putter will always track on the correct line.

"Lateral balance of the putter can be changed by sliding the putter body towards or away from the face. This also changes the mass at impact, allowing golfers to compensate for problems they may experience due to always being short or long with their putts.

"The length of the M1 Putter can be ordered from 33½" up to 46" Belly.

So, I arrive at the putting green with the instructions to test the features.

First, I adjust the lie angle as I personally prefer mine to be a little upright.

This is easily achieved by just slightly loosening three socket screws, the shaft can then be moved until the head sits perfectly flat on the ground.

Then re-tighten the three screws.

My first impression is how easy it is to line up the M1. The two golf ball width lines and the concave sculptured body assure really comfortable alignment.

Then, I try a few 6 footers, WOW! the way the ball comes off the head and the roll The Roll THE ROLL! - This putter rolls the ball as good as any I have ever tried. Next, I tried the sliding body adjustment, the instructions say the closer the body is to the face the further the ball rolls. So, on fast greens open it out, on slow greens close it up. The difference on a 15 footer is about 3 feet on a medium to quick green! What a feature for those of us who are constantly short or long with our putts.

The instructions say I can replace the aluminium rails with the much heavier brass ones, or just one of each. I fitted one of the heavier brass rails to the outside. Immediately, I could feel this extra weight keeping the M1 on (for me) a more outside track during the takeaway. I then swapped the rails over and yes! the M1 tracked back on a more inside line. I have given many lessons to golfers trying to get their putting stroke tracking correctly. If only I'd had this putter! Of course, if I just want a putter with a heavier feel, I can fit both brass rails.

I still have the non-insert face to test! Once fitted, this plain face gives the M1 a totally different feel. The beautiful roll is still there but the ball comes off with more life and a more metallic feel and sound. A definite for slow greens.

There is no doubt whatsoever the M1 will accommodate just about every golfer's preferences. I am sure it will have a tremendous impact on the world market and best of all, it's South African.